

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 27-33 are in the case.

At the outset, the undersigned wishes to thank the Examiner (Ms. Cole) for kindly agreeing to conduct an interview in this case. The interview was held on September 13, 2006, and the courtesies extended by the Examiner were most appreciated.

The substance of the interview is set forth in the Interview Summary forwarded to the undersigned by facsimile transmission on September 13, 2006. As will be seen from that Summary, agreement was reached that the outstanding obviousness and double patenting rejections will be withdrawn upon the presentation of a Response.

It was urged during the interview that the cited Ward patent does not disclose or suggest a crosslinking step, and that Alei requires crosslinking prior to heating and compressing in order to maintain the molecular orientation of the fibers (see column 2, lines 60-62). It was also urged that the crosslinked fibers in Alei do not melt or fuse but, instead, are fused or sintered together so as to bond them together without affecting the molecular orientation (see column 2, line 66 to column 3 line 2). It was noted that, even if the material of Ward which comprises the fibers wherein a portion of the fibers are melted and then recrystallized, were crosslinked after melting, it is Applicants' belief that the resulting product would not be the same as the claimed product which comprises the fibers and the melt wherein the melt is formed after crosslinking. It was further argued that it would not have been obvious to effect crosslinking after melting since Alei effects crosslinking to achieve thermal stability prior to compression molding and heating, to thereby not affect molecular orientation during the subsequent fusing/sintering step.

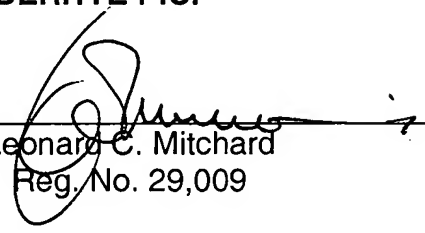
Based on the above, it is believed that all of the outstanding obviousness and double patenting rejections should now be withdrawn. Such action is respectfully requested.

Favorable action on this application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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